

THE CHRISTENING OF THE USS BASS (B-2) (SS164)

BACKGROUND

IN THE EARLY 1920's, THE NINE NEW FLEET TYPE "V" SUBMARINES WERE EITHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED. IN 1924, THE USS V-2 (SS164) WAS THE SECOND OF THIS NEW TYPE SUBMARINE TO BE CHRISTENED AND COMMISSIONED. IN 1927, THE THREE CLASS "163" TYPE SUBMARINES WITH THEIR TENDER, THE USS ARGONNE, WERE TRANSFERRED TO AND HOME-PORTED IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AS SUBMARINE DIVISION TWENTY (SUBDIV20). IN EARLY 1931, A NAVY DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE CHANGED THE NAMING OF FLEET SUBMARINES FROM NUMBERS TO THAT OF A FISH. SO THE "V" BOATS IN COMMISSION AT THAT TIME WERE TO BE RE-NAMED, AND THE FUTURE FLEET TYPE SUBMARINES WOULD BE CHRISTENED WITH THE NAME OF A FISH. THUSLY THE USS V-1 BECAME THE BARRACUDA (B-1), THE V-2, THE BASS (B-2) AND THE V-3, THE BONITA (B-3), AND SO ON.

THE CHRISTENING

IN 1931, THE FLEET EXERCISE PROBLEM BROUGHT THE PACIFIC FLEET TO PANAMA. JUST BEFORE DEPARTING FOR SAN DIEGO, THE USS V-2 WAS MOORED ALONGSIDE OUR TENDER, THE USS HOLLAND. WE USED THE TENDER GANGWAY AND LAUNCHES FOR LIBERTY ASHORE AND RETURN. ON THE LAST LIBERTY ASHORE, BEFORE OUR DEPARTURE, MY BUDDY AND ME WENT ASHORE IN PANAMA CITY FOR A LAST FLING. WHY, I'LL NEVER KNOW, BUT ON OUR WAY BACK TO THE SHIP, I PURCHASED TWO PINTS OF BOURBON AND PLACED THEM IN MY SOX. ON REACHING THE QUARTERDECK OF THE HOLLAND, FEELING HAPPY, THE SHIPS CHIEF MASTER AT ARMS WAS THERE CHECKING THE RETURNING SAILORS FOR CONTRABAND. CONSEQUENTLY, MY TWO BOTTLES WERE CONFISCATED, AND I WAS PLACED ON REPORT. AT CAPTAINS MAST ON THE V-2, I WAS ASSIGNED, AT THAT TIME, A SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL. I WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO THREE MONTHS LOSS OF PAY AND THIRTY DAYS RESTRICTION TO THE SHIP. ENROUTE TO SAN DIEGO, MY DIVISION OFFICER, LT(jg) REX CALDWELL USN (HE PLAYED ON THE ACADEMY FOOTBALL TEAM THAT WENT TO THE ROSE BOWL IN THE EARLY 1920's) CALLED ME ON DECK AND HANDED ME THE TWO BOTTLES, THAT WERE USED AS EVIDENCE, AND TOLD ME TO DISPOSE OF THEM OVER THE SIDE. INSTEAD, I TOOK THE TWO BOTTLES, WALKED FORWARD TO THE BOW, BROKE ONE BOTTLE OVER EACH OF THE TWO "V-2" NAMEPLATES, LOCATED ON THE PORT AND STARBOARD BOW. AT EACH BREAKING I SAID " I CHRISTEN THEE THE USS BASS". SO THE USS V-2 (SS164) WAS THE ONLY TYPE SUBMARINE THAT WAS IN COMMISSION, THAT WAS RE-CHRISTENED TO IT'S NEW NAME. LT(jg) CALDWELL AND THE WATCH ON THE BRIDGE WERE THE ONLY WITNESSES TO THIS HISTORIC EVENT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

*James Francis Murray*  
JAMES FRANCIS MURRAY

(IN 1931) RM2c 385-48-98

(IN 1987 CDR. USN (RET) (b)(6)

## FLEET SUBMARINES—FIRST LINE (SF).

Name and official number	Length over all	Breadth extreme	Ship fully equipped, ready for sea—normal stores, ammunition, and fuel		
			Mean draft	Displacement	
				Surface	Submerged
	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1 T1.....SF1	268 9	22 7½	14 2	1,106	1,487
2 T2.....SF2	268 9	22 7½	14 2	1,106	1,487
3 T3.....SF3	268 9	22 7½	14 2	1,106	1,487
4 V1.....SF4	341 6	27 7	15 7	2,119	2,506
5 V2.....SF5	341 6	27 7	15 7	2,119	2,506
6 V3.....SF6	341 6	27 7	15 7	2,119	2,506

## FLEET SUBMARINES—(MINE-LAYING TYPE) (SM).

Name and official number	Length over all	Breadth extreme	Standard displacement		
			Mean draft	Displacement	
				Surface	Submerged
	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Fl. in.</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1 V4.....(ex-SF7) SM1	381 0	33 7½	15 2	2,680	4,080

## FLEET SUBMARINES—FIRST LINE (SF).

Shaft horse- power	Contractor	Builder	Date of act authorizing building	Name and official number	
1 4,000	Elect. Boat Co., N. Y.....	Fore Riv. S. B. Corp., Quincy	June 30, 1914	T1.....SF1	1
2 4,000	do.....	do.....	Mar. 3, 1915 <sup>1</sup>	T2.....SF2	2
3 4,700	do.....	do.....	do.....	T3.....SF3	3
4 6,700	U. S. Government.....	Navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H.	July 1, 1918 <sup>2</sup>	V1.....SF4	4
5 6,700	do.....	do.....	do.....	V2.....SF5	5
6 6,700	do.....	do.....	do.....	V3.....SF6	6
32,800				Total S. H. P.	

<sup>1</sup> Together with act of June 27, 1916.<sup>2</sup> Together with act of Aug. 29, 1916.

T-1 formerly AA-1; originally Schley; T-2 formerly AA-2; T-3 formerly AA-3.

## FLEET SUBMARINES—(MINE-LAYING TYPE) (SM).

Shaft horse- power	Contractor	Builder	Date of act authorizing building	Name and official number	
1	U. S. Government.....	Navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H.	May 28, 1924 <sup>1</sup>	V4.....SM1	1

<sup>1</sup> Together with act of Aug. 29, 1916.

## FLEET SUBMARINES—FIRST LINE (SF).

	Name and official number	Contract signed	Keel laid	Ship launched	Contract date of completion	Date of preliminary acceptance	Date of first commission
1	T-1.....SF1	Mar. 19, 1915	June 21, 1916	July 25, 1918	Mar. 19, 1918	Jan. 30, 1920	Jan. 30, 1920
2	T-2.....SF2	Oct. 2, 1916	May 31, 1917	Sept. 6, 1919	Oct. 2, 1918	Jan. 7, 1922	Jan. 7, 1922
3	T-3.....SF3	.....do.....	May 21, 1917	May 24, 1919	Dec. 2, 1918	Dec. 7, 1920	Dec. 7, 1920
4	V-1.....SF4	Mar 12, 1920 <sup>1</sup>	Oct. 20, 1921	July 17, 1924	.....	.....	Oct. 1, 1924
5	V-2.....SF5	.....do. <sup>1</sup>	.....do.....	Dec. 27, 1924	.....	.....	Sept. 26, 1925
6	V-3.....SF6	.....do. <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 16, 1921	June 9, 1925	.....	.....	May 22, 1926

<sup>1</sup> Date assigned to yard.

## FLEET SUBMARINES (MINE-LAYING TYPE) (SM).

	Name and official number	Contract signed	Keel laid	Ship launched	Contract date of completion	Date of preliminary acceptance	Date of first commission
1	V-4.....SM1	July 18, 1924	May 1, 1925	Nov. 10, 1927	.....	.....	Apr. 2, 1928

<sup>1</sup> Date assigned to yard.

## FLEET SUBMARINES—FIRST LINE (SF).

Quarters available (officers)	Messes (complement)		Name and official number
	Chief petty officers	Other enlisted men	
1	4	5	45 T-1.....SF1 1
2	4	5	45 T-2.....SF2 2
3	4	5	45 T-3.....SF3 3
4	7	9	70 V-1.....SF4 4
5	7	9	70 V-2.....SF5 5
6	7	9	70 V-3.....SF6 6

## FLEET SUBMARINES (MINE-LAYING TYPE) (SM).

Quarters available (officers)	Messes (complement)		Name and official number
	Chief petty officers	Other enlisted men	
1	7	9	70 V-4.....SM1 1

NAVY DEPARTMENT

# SHIPS' DATA U. S. NAVAL VESSELS

JULY 1, 1929

Navy Department Library  
Division of Naval Records & History, OP-29  
Washington 25, D.C.



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1929

Ex - Bass

NHC/Ser 306(AR)  
21 March 1974

Mr. Thomas Roach

(b) (6)

COMMAND FILE  
WORLD WAR II

Dear Mr. Roach,

Once again we want to compliment you on a published article and thank you for sending us a copy.

According to our records, the hull# of SS-164 (the decommissioned USS BASS) was sunk by an aircraft of the Anti-Submarine Development Detachment, U.S Atlantic Fleet, on 18 March 1945 for the purpose of evaluating aircraft anti-submarine weapons and also in order to provide a sonar target for training exercises. This latter purpose should explain why it was sunk only eight miles at sea. The Detachment's report states that the initial sinking was in Latitude 41° 01' North, Longitude 71° 32' West, eight miles from Southeast Point Lighthouse on Block Island, bearing 178.5 degrees true, in 150 feet of water. A copy of that report is attached.

Sincerely yours,

D. C. ALLARD  
Head, Operational Archives Branch

ORIG: MISS GILMORE, NHC-AR, BLDG 210, WNY EXT. 3170  
TYPED: PNSA KENNEDY  
R/S: NONE

**DECLASSIFIED**

22 Dec 66

Ships History folder on BASS (SS-164) has note that:

Hulk was sold to Mr. Nicholas Zinkowski, Old Branch  
Road, Newport, R.I. (Salvage Operator) 4 June 1963

Was listed until May 62 when OP-432 memo of 14 May  
put it on the Property Disposal Listing.

COMMAND FILE  
WORLD WAR II

Op-23-J-RP  
Serial 73223

COMMAND FILE  
WORLD WAR II

3 1267

~~RESTRICTED~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**

3 MAR 1945

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: U.S.S. - SS163(BARRACUDA), U.S.S. - SS164 (BASS) --  
Request for Authorization to Use as Targets.

Ref : (a) Title 34 U.S. Code, Sec. 493b (June 24, 1941 Ch. 231,  
55 Stat. 260).

1. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet requests that authority be granted to use the subject vessels as targets. They are at present being dismantled after which they will be stricken from the Navy Register. It is considered that the best interests of the Government would be best served thereby and authorization is requested in accordance with reference (a). A letter requesting Presidential approval is forwarded herewith.

2.

F.J. HORNER  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Op-23-J-RP  
Serial 73323

1st Endorsement

6 MAR 1945

From: Secretary of the Navy.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Authorization for the above use is hereby granted upon receipt of the approval of the President and after the vessels have been stricken from the Navy Register.

JAMES FORRESTAL

Copy to:

JAG

BuShips

BuOrd

Insurv

Com THREE

Com FOUR

NYNYK

NYPHILA

Op-2 3-C

*Cominch, Comsublant*

3 03

W. O. RED, AR II

SS164  
DHq-5c  
J:W:el

Headquarters, Third Naval District  
New York, New York

2 2112

24 February 1945

~~RESTRICTED~~ **DECLASSIFIED**

End-1 on CNO restr ltr Op-23J-dp  
Serial 58523 dated 19 Feb. 1945.

To: Commanding Officer, U. S. Submarine Base, New London, Conn.

Subj: USS BASS (SS164) - Disposal of.

1. Forwarded for compliance and report as requested in Paragraph 4,  
on behalf of the Commandant THIRD Naval District.

*H. M. Jensen*  
H. M. JENSEN

Assistant Commandant for Operations

cc:

CNO  
Op-23C  
BuShips  
BuOrd  
BuPers  
BuMed  
BuSanda  
Cominch ✓  
JAG  
Insurv  
Comdt, NYNYK



Op-23C-1-JVW 1/30/45  
Serial 36323

COMMAND FILE  
WORLD WAR II

~~RESTRICTED~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**

1 FEB 1945

From: Chief of Naval Operations.  
To : Secretary of the Navy.

Subj: U.S.S. BELLICUDA (SS163) and U.S.S. BASS (SS164) - Disposal of.

Refs: (a) Public Act No. 671, 76th Cong. App. 28 June 1940.  
(b) Report of InSurv DAO SS163-SS165/83-1(5001-S), Serial **I 2 640** #  
220121 of 9 November 1943 and endorsements thereto.

1. In compliance with the provisions of reference (a) it is certified that the subject vessels; due to their condition, are not essential to the defense of the United States.

2. Authority is requested to proceed with the disposal of the subject vessels as recommended in paragraph 6 of reference (b), when the vessels can be withdrawn from active service.

F. J. HORNE  
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

-----  
Op-23C-1-JVW 1/30/45  
Serial 36323

~~RESTRICTED~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**

5 FEB 1945

From: Secretary of the Navy.  
To : Chief of Naval Operations.

1. Reference (a) is approved.

2. The Chief of Naval Operations will take the necessary action incident to their disposal.

**JAMES FORRESTAL**

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For distribution see next sheet

~~SECRET~~

WORLD WAR II

SS164/P17  
Serial 303

U.S.S. BASS,  
c/o Fleet Post Office,  
New York, N. Y.,  
26 September 1943.

From: Commander James E. Stevens, U.S. Navy.  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.  
Via : (1) Commander Submarine Squadron ONE.  
(2) Commander Submarines, Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Relieving of Command-U.S.S. BASS.

Reference: (a) Navy Regulations, Article 824.  
(b) BuPers. ltr. (63333) Pers.-317-RHW-6 of 17 September 1943.  
(c) BUPers. ltr. (72360) Pers.-317-KBT-6 of 17 September 1943.

1. In accordance with reference (a), I report having been relieved of the command of the U.S.S. BASS by Lieutenant Commander Louis J. Majewski, U.S. Naval Reserve, in compliance with reference (b) and (c).

2. A thorough inspection of the U.S.S. BASS has been made by me in company with my relief.

3. The crew was exercised at battle stations, fire quarters, collision quarters, and mustered at stations for abandon ship.

4. The last general mess statement indicated that on 26 September 1943, this vessel had an unused balance of \$1655.69.

5. All title "B" material is on hand or surveys issued or requisitions for shortage in allowance made.

6. All registered secret and confidential publications have been checked and the transfer report has been forwarded to Vice Chief of Naval Operations (Registered Publication Section).

7. The following have been turned over to my relief:

- (a) All unexecuted orders.
- (b) Corrected copies of Fleet Regulations and of Force and unit Instructions including letters.
- (c) Intelligence outfit.

8. The combination of the confidential locker and all keys normally kept in the Captain's cabin have been turned over to my relief.

9. I have signed the log, fitness reports of officers and papers requiring signature to date.

10. The personnel condition is satisfactory.

SS164/P17  
Serial 303

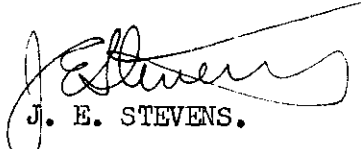
U.S.S. BASS

26 September 1943.

Subject: Relieving of Command-U.S.S. BASS  
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11. The following defects were pointed out to my relief, and accounted for as indicated:

- (a) No. 1 periscope fogs up, indicating leaks.
- (b) Nos 3 and 4 main ballast tank vents do not open hydraulically with pressure in tank in excess of 6 pounds thereby increasing diving time considerably.
- (c) Battery ventilation system defective due to excessive loss of electrolyte.
- (d) Cargo tank hatches of forward and After cargo compartments leak because of faulty design and construction.
- (e) The port engine air compressor is defective due to excessive heat when operating above one half of full load.
- (f) Port main generator and engine completely disabled due to after generator roller bearing being burnt out.

  
J. E. STEVENS.

On inspection of the U.S.S. BASS I found conditions as reported above.

  
L. J. MAJEWSKI.

Refer to:

FC5-1/P17/(0284)

SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE

Administrative Command

U. S. SUBMARINE BASE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ **DECLASSIFIED**

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

28 September 1943

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to  
CO BASS ltr. SS164/P17  
Serial 303 of 26 Sept. 1943.

From: The Commander Submarine Squadron ONE.  
To : The Chief of Naval Operations.  
Via : The Commander Submarines, Atlantic Fleet.

Subject: Relieving of Command - U.S.S. BASS.

1. Forwarded, changing the classification of subject correspondence to confidential.

2. This report is forwarded via the Commander Submarines, Atlantic Fleet in view of the defect listed in paragraph 11(f) of the basic letter.

3. The following comments on the defects reported in the basic letter are submitted:-

11(a) No. 1 periscope - Corrected by the Submarine Base New London.

11(b) Nos. 3 and 4 main ballast tank vents - At times vents open hydraulically satisfactorily even with 6 or more pounds pressure in the tanks. Only very rarely do vents fail to open hydraulically, requiring hand operation. However, in the majority of cases the opening of these vents hydraulically with 6 or more pounds pressure in the tanks is very sluggish, the vents only cracking until the pressure is released. Previous attempts by both the Navy Yard Philadelphia and the Submarine Base New London to determine and remove the cause of this defect have failed. It is anticipated that corrective measures will be taken during the present availability of the BASS at the Navy Yard Philadelphia.

11(c) Battery ventilation - Ventilation is excessive resulting in loss of electrolyte from some cells and the necessity for more frequent watering. This condition was improved during the last availability. A similar defect in the BARRACUDA was eliminated during that vessel's last availability at the Navy Yard Philadelphia. It is anticipated that the corrective measures used on the BARRACUDA will be applied to the BASS during the present availability at the Navy Yard Philadelphia.

PG 5-1/P17/(0284)

SUBMARINE SQUADRON ONE  
Administrative Command  
U. S. SUBMARINE BASE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

28 September 1943

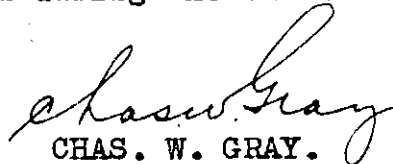
Subject: Relieving of Command - U.S.S. BASS.  
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11(d) Forward and after cargo tank hatches - Leaks are very slight. In view of difficulty experienced with the BASS the design and construction of similiar hatches in BARRACUDA were changed slightly entirely eliminating this defect. It is anticipated that the BARRACUDA type hatches will be installed in the BASS during the current availability at the Navy Yard Philadelphia.

11(e) Port engine air compressor - It is believed this is the result of slight misalignment. This defect is being corrected by ship's force during the current availability.

11(f) Port main generator - BASS has been granted availability at the Navy Yard Philadelphia from 30 September 1943 to 23 October 1943 for the correction of this defect.

4. By copy of this endorsement the Commanding Officer of the BASS is directed to have the corrective measures outlined in paragraph (3) above accomplished during the current availability at the Navy Yard Philadelphia.

  
CHAS. W. GRAY.

Copy to:  
CO BASS

P17/( 01322 ) SUBMARINES, ATLANTIC FLEET  
% Fleet Post Office, New York, N.Y.

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

5 - OCT 1943

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to  
CO USS BASS ltr. SS164/  
P17, serial 303, of 26  
September 1943.

From: The Commander Submarines, Atlantic Fleet.  
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.

Subject: Relieving of Command - U.S.S. BASS.

1. Forwarded. It is noted that steps are currently being taken to eliminate the defects listed in the basic letter.

*F. K. Daubin*  
F. K. DAUBIN.

113 ✓  
Copy to:  
ComSubRon 1  
CO USS BASS

6 1943  
23  
P17-1/28164  
96004  
5631

FINISHED

*Wright* FILE

BUREAU OF  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1st Endorsement

SEP 4 2 21 PM '42

U.S.S. BASS RECEIVED  
c/o Postmaster, New York  
August 29, 1942.

SS164/P6  
Serial 035

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
**DECLASSIFIED**

From: The Commanding Officer.  
To: The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.  
Subject: U.S.S. BASS - Report of Casualties.

1. Forwarded.

2. Remains were interred in Corozal Cemetery on August 21, 1942 in accordance with Chief of Bureau of Medicine and Surgery letter QW 20/A14-6 (121) of June 25, 1942. All arrangements in connection therewith were made by the Medical Officer, Fifteenth Naval District.

*A. H. Dropp*  
A. H. Dropp.

cc  
ComSubRon 3  
Sr. Medical Off.

File No.

U. S. SUBMARINE BASE  
Coco Solo, Canal Zone,  
August 26, 1942.

From: The Squadron Medical Officer,  
Submarine Squadron Three.  
To : The Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Via: The Commanding Officer, U.S.S. BASS.  
Subject: Report of Casualties.  
Reference: (a) Paragraph 3520, Manual of the Medical Department.

1. On August 17, 1942 aboard the U.S.S. BASS, while submerged at 85 feet, fire occurred in the after battery room. Cause: unknown. A Court of Inquiry is being held.

2. The following enlisted personnel who were asleep in the after sleeping compartments, after battery room, after torpedo room, or on watch in the tiller room met a fatal end. The cause of death in each case was considered to be Asphyxiation #2501. Key Letter "C", Speciality Letter "S".

ADAIR, Roy	(b) (6)	TM1c	U.S.N.
AMBO, Standley		Sea2c, V-6	U.S.N.R.
BARRETT, John Francis		RM1c	U.S.N.
BLAGG, Leonard Ode		EM2c	U.S.N.
BOYCHULK, Thomas (n)		Sea2c	U.S.N.
CRISS, Laurence Simpson		Yeolc	U.S.N.
GARLAND, Roswell LeRoy		F2c	U.S.N.
GIBSON, Lewis Grady		CEM(AA)	U.S.N.
GYMER, Donald Robert		F3c	U.S.N.
LARKIN, Joseph John		EM3c	U.S.N.
LUYK, Daniel		AS, V-6	U.S.N.
MERRITT, Robert Frank		SC2c	U.S.N.
MINOR, James Emerson		Sea2c, V-6	U.S.N.R.
NOCKS, Emery Lea		Sealc	U.S.N.
PITTENGER, Kinnaman John		Sea2c, V-6	U.S.N.R.
PLEVA, Stanley Walter		GM3c	U.S.N.
REID, Marion Harry		Sea2c	U.S.N.
ROBSON, John Axton		CMoMM(AA)	U.S.N.
ROWE, Nelseon Lewis		Bkrlc	U.S.N.
SCHNEIDER, George Ferdin		Sealc	U.S.N.
STEELE, George Edward		Sea2c	U.S.N.
STEINHAEUER, Ralph Leroy		Sea2c	U.S.N.
SWANSON, Carl Arthur		Cox	U.S.N.
WALTERS, Clyde "E"		CMoMM(PA)	U.S.N.
WARD, Robert LaVerne		Sea2c, V-6	U.S.N.R.
WEND, Philip Howard		Sea2c, V-6	U.S.N.R.

(Over)



File No.

U. S. SUBMARINE BASE  
Coco Solo, Canal Zone,

August 26, 1942.

3. There were no other non-fatal diseases nor injuries that warranted admission to the sick list.

*I. B. Polak*  
I.B. POLAK.

BASS SS164

Submarine

Gen. Order #551 10-18-20 SER 98963

NAME NO  
BUILT BY Navy Yard, PortsmouthCLASSIFICATION  
ACQUIRED FROM

NAME ASSIGNED

SD  
checked  
5/15

ITEM	DATA	SOURCE	ITEM	DATA	SOURCE
1. Length over all	341' 6"	Ships' Data 1938	27. Quarters - Junior Officers		
Length, W. L. at			28. Quarters - Warrant Officers		
2. Stand. Displ.	326' 0"	" " "	29. Quarters - C P.O.		
Extreme Beam, W. L.			30. Quarters - Other enlisted men		
3. Stand. Displ.	27' 1"	" " "	31. Contract Price (Hull & Mach.)		
4. Mean Draft at Stand. Displ.	14' 7"	" " "	32. Date of Act	Aug. 29, 1916 July 1, 1918	NAV. B/CLS 8/29/16 & 7/1/18
5. Standard Displacement.	2,000 Tons	" " "	33. Contract Signed	Mar. 13, 1920	
6. Submerged Displ.	2,507 Tons	" " "	34. Date Acquired		Telegram 10/20/21 C&R #187-SS109 to 118
7. Trial Displacement.			35. Keel laid	Oct. 20, 1921	Serial 98504 10/21/21
8.			36. Launched	Dec. 27, 1924	C&R #187-SF 4 to 6 Serial #64747 12/27/24
9. Designed Speed.			37. Sponsor		
Tons per inch immer-			38. Contract Date of Completion		
10. sion Service conditions			39. Preliminary Acceptance		
Maximum Draft			40. First Commission	Sept. 26, 1925	C&R #SF 4 to 6/A4 Serial 49480 9/28/25
11. Service conditions.			41. Date of Completion		
12. Smoke Pipes, No. of			42. Date over age		
13. Masts, No. of			43. Name changed to "BASS" Feb. 19, 1931		#SS/S28-2
14. Propellers, No. of	2	" " "	44. Designation changed to Submarine (Sec. of Navy lettr. June 19/31, Alnav of June 19/31, C&R #A9-11-(3) a		July 1, 1931
15. Engines, Type of	Busch Sulzer M.A.N.	" " "	45.		
16. Boilers, No. of			46. Out of Commission	June 9, 1937	#FS/A3-1&2
17. Motors, Type	Elliott Co.	" " "	47. Recommissioned	Sept. 5, 1940	Op-38
Turbogenerator Sets			48. Formerly named V-2		
18. No. of			49. DECOM	3-3-45	
Turbogenerator Sets			50. Stricken	3-10-45	Serial 85523
19. Type			51. Destroyed	3-12-45	
Turbogenerator Sets			52. Base converted to cargo carrier	4 Apr 1943	
20. D.C. or A.C.					
21. Armament					
22.					
23.					
24.					
25. Quarters - Cabin					
26. Quarters - Wardroom					

BASS

SS164

STRICKEN

SHIPS INFORMATION  
BUREAU OF SHIPS, PUBLICATION SEC.

Completed

NAME BASS

TYPE: SS-164

FORMER NAME:

LENGTH 241'6"	BEAM 27'1"	DRAFT 14'7"	DISPLACEMENT 2,000	HOME PORT	HOME YARD Phila 6-16-42
SPEED	RADIUS	FUEL CAPACITY	FLAG QTRS.		
BUILT BY: NYdPortsmouth, N.H.			CONVERTED BY:		
KEEL LAID: 10-20-21	LAUNCHED: 12-27-24	COMPLETED: 9-26-25			
ACCEPTED:	COMMISSIONED: 9-26-25	REPORTED:			
PERSONNEL: OFFICERS	C.P.O.'s	ENLISTED	PASSENGERS	THOOPS	Officers: Enlisted:
BATTERY: MAIN	SECONDARY	A.A.G.	TORPEDOES-MINES	Tracks	DEPTH CHARGE Projectors Charges
1-3"/50DP	2-.50 mg	4-BT	2-ST		
SOUND EQUIPMENT:			RADAR:		
LANDING BOATS: NO.	SIZE:	TANK LANDING BOATS: NO.	SIZE:		
COMMANDING OFFICER: R. M. S. Landeman			USNR 1946 45		
REMARKS: To report Com3 for decomm. and further disp. as directed by VCNO.					
CominCh & CNO conf 092230 Feb.45.//Reported Com 3 for decomm. 11 Feb.45. BASS					
SC 111854 Feb.45//Decomm. 3 Mar.45 and accepted by SuBase New London for Com3					
Ready strike. SuBase New London rest.032015 Mar.45//Stricken from Navy Register					
10 Mar.45. SecNav rest. ptr. ser. 85223 of 10 Mar.45// <sup>File SP/AR-1(4)</sup> SecNav auth. and Pres.					
approved use as Sonar Target. CNO SC 121525 Mar.45.//Hulk sunk 8 mi. 178.5°T					
from SE point lighthouse Block Is. heading 145-325 T. Marked by 2 yellow dan					

BASS

SS-164

buoys. ComSubLant rest.191513 Mar.45.

USS BASS (SS-164)

Only information at Gun Factory as follows:

L: 341'6", B: 27'1", Dr: 14'7", Dp: 2000, A: 1 3"/50 DP, torpedo tubes.

BASS conducted her first war patrol from 22 March to 11 April 1942, cruising in waters 3°-30'N latitude, 93° to 94°-30'W longitude. No enemy contacts were made, but habitability, health, and morale were very good.

BASS conducted her third war patrol from 13 June to 9 July 1942, cruising in the off shore patrol area out of Balboa, Canal Zone. She sailed from Coco Solo 13 June, transited the Panama Canal, and departed Balboa the next day, arriving on station 17 June. The patrol was without incident and the submarine put in at Balboa 8 July and at Coco Solo the next day.

BASS conducted her fourth war patrol from 30 July to 22 August 1942, crusing in the Panama Sea Frontier area. While on patrol, one of her crew gave indications of probable appendicitis and BASS transfered him to ANTAFUS, having steamed to Dulce for rendezvous on 15 August. At 0535 17 August a fire broke out in the after battery compartment and twenty=six men were asphyxiated when trapped in the after compartments of the submarine. Rendezvousing with ANTAFUS ~~###Date##~~ 18 August, BASS sailed for Dulce, where both ships moored the next day and the dead removed. On 19 August she stood out for Balboa, putting in 20 August, and returning to Coco Solo two days later.

(end)

# **List of Casualties, BASS and LAGARTO**

## **BASS:**

**17 August 1942--The following men declared dead of asphyxiation as a result of conflagration and explosion:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Adair, Roy	(b) (6)	TM1/c, USN
Boychulk, Thomas	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, USN
Barrett, John F.	(b) (6)	RM1/c, USN
Steele, George E.	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, USN
Rowe, Nelson L.	(b) (6)	BKr 1/c, USN
Merritt, Robert F.	(b) (6)	SC 2/c, USN
Swanson, Carl A.	(b) (6)	Cox, USN
Luyk, Daniel	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, V-6, USNR
Blagg, Leonard Ode	(b) (6)	EM2/c, USN
Garland, Roswell L.	(b) (6)	F 2/c, USN
Wend, Philip H.	(b) (6)	S 2/c, V-6, USNR
Reid, Marion H.	(b) (6)	S 2/c, USN
Ambo, Stanley	(b) (6)	S 2/c, V-6, USNR
Criss, Lawrence	(b) (6)	Y 1/c, USN
Steinhauer, Ralph L.	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, USN
Ward, Robert L.	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, V-6, USNR
Walters, Clyde "E"	(b) (6)	CMoMM (PA), USN
Gibson, Lewis G.	(b) (6)	CEM (AA), USN
Nocks, Emory L.	(b) (6)	Sea 1/c, USN
Minor, James E.	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, V-6, USNR
Pittinger, John K.	(b) (6)	Sea 2/c, V-6, USNR
Pleva, Stanley W.	(b) (6)	GM 3/c, USN
Larkin, Joseph H.	(b) (6)	EM 3/c, USN
Robson, John A.	(b) (6)	CMoMM (AA), USN
Gymer, Donald R.	(b) (6)	F 3/c, USN

## **LAGARTO:**

**3 December 1944--The following man died of coronary thrombosis, while LAGARTO was in Saboya Anchorage, Perlas Is., Panama:**

Cole, Pat (n)	(b) (6)	CMM (PA), USN
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**Enclosure (1)**

SS-164  
SER 04321A-237

11 JUL 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT ON DSSO ltr DSSO-SB-A of 6 July 1967

From: Commander Naval Ship System Command

→ To: Chief of Naval Operations

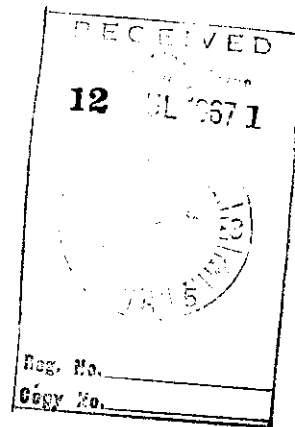
Subj: Disposal of SS-164, EX-USS BASS

1. Readdressed and forwarded for action concurring in paragraph 3 of the basic letter.



Copy to:  
DSSO Brooklyn

E. D. ROU  
By direction





IN REPLY REFER TO:

DSSO-SB-A

DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY  
DEFENSE LOGISTICS SERVICES CENTER  
DEFENSE SURPLUS SALES OFFICE

FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING  
830 THIRD AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11232

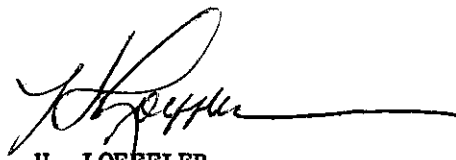
MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. DRAWER NO. 1  
BUSH TERMINAL STATION  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11232

6 July 1967

SUBJECT: Disposal of SS-164, Ex-USS BASS

TO: Chief of Naval Material  
Naval Ships Systems Command  
ATTN: SHIPS 043  
Department of the Navy  
Washington, D. C. (20360)

1. The SS-164 was authorized for sale by CNO letter Op-432/cc Ser 775P43 of 14 May 1962. The subject submarine sunken in approximately 150 feet of water off Block Island, Rhode Island was offered on DSSO Brooklyn Sales Invitation 18-S-63-48 and subsequently awarded to Nicholas Zinkowski of Newport, Rhode Island on 5 June 1963.
2. The purchaser was permitted a period of two (2) years to remove and scrap the vessel. After failing to complete the removal and scrapping within the time limit specified an additional extension of time was granted. The Sales Contracting Officer of DSSO Brooklyn ultimately held the purchaser in default for failure to comply with scrapping terms and conditions, and title to the vessel was returned to the U. S. Government.
3. It is the opinion of this office that the SS-164 Ex-USS BASS, sunk since March 1945, has no appreciable commercial value. Due to this factor and the depth of the sunken vessel disposal by sale is not practicable. This office recommends that the SS-164 be deleted from the DSSO Brooklyn inventory and control of the vessel be returned to the Department of the Navy.

  
H. LOEFFLER  
Acting Chief



SS-164  
SER 04321A-237

11 JUL 1967

FIRST ENDORSEMENT ON DSSO ltr DSSO-SB-A of 6 July 1967

From: Commander Naval Ship System Command  
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Disposal of SS-164, EX-USS BASS

1. Readdressed and forwarded for action concurring in paragraph 3 of the basic letter.

Copy to:  
DSSO Brooklyn

E. D. ROU  
By direction

2002



740  
**DEFENSE SURPLUS SALES OFFICE**  
**DEFENSE LOGISTICS SERVICES CENTER**  
BUILDING #1, SEVENTH FLOOR  
3RD AVENUE AND 29TH STREET  
BROOKLYN 32, NEW YORK

IN REPLY REFER TO

DSSO-BK

M1:ds

31 July, 1962

**SALE OF PROPERTY (SUNKEN VESSEL) - - REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

Gentlemen:

The following vessel, Sunken Submarine, SS-164, sunk off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island is offered for sale.

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT	CONDITION	LOCATION
SUNKEN SUBMARINE (SS-164)	One	Each	Scrap	Sunk off Block Island, Rhode Island in approximately 150 feet of water. The position of the vessel is believed to be 8 mis. $\phi 178.5^\circ$ true from SE Point Lighthouse, Block Island on heading $145-325^\circ$ true; however, the Government does not guarantee the location of this vessel.
Length (overall) :	341 feet 6 inches			
Beam (extreme) :	27 feet			
Light displacement:	2,000 tons			
Engine data :	Busch-Sulzer M.A.N.			
Constructed by	Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1925.			

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SCREENED AGAINST THE KNOWN DEFENSE  
AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

The vessel is offered for sale "AS IS" - "WHERE IS" for SCRAPPING PURPOSES ONLY.

It is suggested that all interested buyers visit the area where the vessel is located prior to submitting proposals. Prospective bidders and Purchaser are to make own arrangements at own expense for transportation, divers and equipment necessary for inspection and removal of the vessel.

The Government will not furnish divers or diving equipment.

It is requested that you submit a proposal for the vessel to the Defense Surplus Sales Office, Building 1-7th Floor, 3rd Avenue and 29th Street, Brooklyn 32, New York before 3:00 P.M. (DST), Friday, 7 September 1962. Your quotation should be entered in the space provided below.

This is not an offer, but a solicitation only. If the Government desires to sell on the basis of your proposal, a sales contract will be prepared for signature by both parties. Payment in full will be required at the time the contract is executed and before release of the vessel.

*W. R. Grancher*  
W. R. GRANCHER  
Chief

Quotation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In response to the above request, the undersigned offers to purchase the vessel described above at the following price:

Quoted Price: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Sunken Submarine, SS-164.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Bidder)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

-1-

Bass

A bass is a edible, spiny-finned, fresh water and marine fish.

The first Bass (SF-5) was launched as V-2 on 27 December 1924, by Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H.; sponsored by Mrs. Douglas E. Dismukes, wife of Captain Dismukes; and commissioned 26 September 1925, Lieutenant Commander G. A. Rood, in command.

The vessel was assigned to Submarine Division 20 and cruised along the Atlantic Coast and in the Caribbean area through November 1927 when Division 20 sailed for San Diego, arriving at San Diego 3 December 1927. She operated with the fleet on the West Coast, in the Hawaiian Islands, and in the Caribbean area until December 1932. On 9 March 1931 V-2 was renamed Bass and in April assigned to Division Twelve. On 1 July 1931 her designation was changed from SF-5 to SS-164. On 2 January 1933 she was assigned to Rotating Reserve, Submarine Division 15, San Diego. Bass rejoined the fleet again in July 1933 and cruised along the West Coast, in the Canal Zone, and in the Hawaiian Islands area until January 1937. She departed the West Coast in January and arrived at Philadelphia on 18 February 1937 where she was placed out of commission in reserve on 9 June.

Bass was recommissioned at Portsmouth, N. H., 5 September 1940 and assigned to Submarine Division 9, Atlantic Fleet. Between February and November 1941 Bass operated on the New England Coast and made two trips to St. Georges, Bermuda.

Bass

She arrived at Coco Solo, Canal Zone on 24 November and was on duty there when hostilities broke out between Japan and the United States.

In 1942 Bass was attached to Submarine Division 31, Squadron 3, Atlantic Fleet. Between March and August, while based at Coco Solo, Canal Zone, she made four war patrols in the Pacific, off Balboa. On 17 August 1942 while at sea, a fire broke out in the after battery of Bass and quickly spread to the after torpedo room and starboard main motor, resulting in the death of 26 enlisted men by asphyxiation. The following day Antaeus (AS-21) arrived to assist the submarine, escorted her into the Gulf of Dulce, Costa Rica, and took aboard the deceased men from the Bass. Both vessels then proceeded to Balboa where the bodies were transferred ashore.

Bass remained in the Canal Zone until October 1942 when she departed for Philadelphia arriving on the 19th. After undergoing repairs at the Philadelphia Navy, Bass proceeded to New London, Conn., area where, in December 1943, she conducted secret experiments off Block Island. She was again in the Philadelphia Yard for repairs from January to March 1944. During the remainder of the year she was attached to Submarine Squadron 1, Atlantic Fleet, and operated out of New London in the area between Long Island and Block Island.

Bass was decommissioned at the Submarine Base, New London, on 3 March 1945 and stricken from the Navy List on 10 March.

REPORT OF VESSELS SOLD 1 May 1962--11 Apr 1963 INCL

<u>VESSEL</u>	<u>SALES INV.</u>	<u>OPENING BID</u>	<u>PURCHASER</u>	<u>SALES PRICE</u>
SS=164 BASS	18-S-63-48	6/4/63	Mr. Nicholas Zinkowski Old Branch Road Newport, Rhode Island	\$1,278.00

SOURCE: OFFICIAL NAVY DISPOSAL LIST



DEFENSE SURPLUS SALES OFFICE  
DEFENSE LOGISTICS SERVICES CENTER  
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING  
830 THIRD AVENUE  
BROOKLYN 32, NEW YORK

IN REPLY REFER TO DSSO-BK  
S3:1f

6 June 1963

SUBJECT: Sale of SUNKEN SUBMARINE (SS-164)

TO: Chief of Naval Operations  
Code Op-432  
Department of the Navy  
Washington 25, D.C.

1. References.

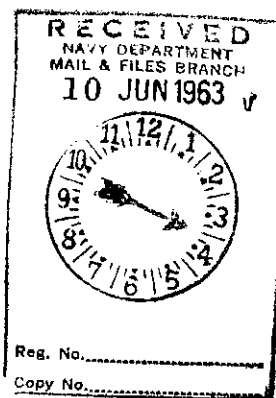
- a. Copy of CNO ltr Op-432/bt ser 642P43 of 19 Apr 1962
- b. DSSO Brooklyn Sales Invitation 18-S-63-48, opened 4 June 1963

2. Subject vessel, authorized for sale by reference (a) and listed as Item Number 1 of reference (b) has been awarded to Mr. Nicholas Zinkowski, Old Beach Road, Newport, Rhode Island for \$1,278.00.

  
W. R. GRANCHER  
Chief

Distribution:

Curator for the Dept of the Navy, (Code OP09B9)



16101  
JUN 12 1963



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO  
Op-432/cc  
Ser 775P43

14 MAY 1962

From: Chief of Naval Operations  
To: Chief, Property Utilization and Disposal Division,  
Defense Logistics Services Center (Attn: Mr.  
Lebeuf)

Subj: Disposal of former USS BASS (SS-164); authorization  
for negotiated sale

Encl: (1) Copy of CNO ltr Op-432/bt ser 642P43 of 19 Apr  
1962  
(2) Copy of DSSO ltr M1:ds of 3 May 1962  
(3) Copy of JAG ltr JAG:111.1:djs ser 9145 of  
8 Dec 1961

1. Enclosure (1) requested a determination of economic value prior to ultimate disposal of the SS-164.
2. Enclosure (2) advises that the anticipated return is not expected to exceed \$1,000, and proposes a negotiated sale with exclusion of required 30 days advertising in newspapers.
3. The Chief of Naval Operations concurs in the above mentioned proposal and requests that the Defense Surplus Sales Office, New York be authorized, as early as possible, to proceed with the sale of the former USS BASS (SS-164), now considered "property" within the meaning of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 USC 471 et seq) according to an opinion in enclosure (3) regarding property classification of sunken hulks.

D R McMULLEN  
BY DIRECTION

Copy to:  
DSSO NYK  
JAG (Attn: Capt. E.G. Magennis)  
Op-09B91

DIVISION OF NAVAL HISTORY

Op-09B91-0  
JBT:dm

21 March 1962

From: Op-09B91-0 (Mr. J. B. Thomas), Division  
of Naval History  
To: Judge Advocate General (Capt. E. G. Magennis)  
Subj: USS BASS (SS 164), disposal of  
Ref: (1) JAG:11:cm Ser 1601, 14 Mar. 1962

1. In accordance with telecon, the records of our Ships History section show the following as quoted from COMSERVLANT Restricted Dispatch 191513 of Mar 1945 directed to COMSUBRON 1 & 7: Sunk as sonar target, 3-12-45, "8 mi  $\phi$  178.5° True from SE Point Lighthouse, Block Island on heading 145-325° True; temporarily marked by yellow dan buoys." She had been stricken from the Navy Register 10 Mar. 1945.

2. We have no written confirmation of the allegation that BASS was officially, finally and formally abandoned by the Department.

Jesse B. Thomas

67024





Op-234-dp  
Serial 58523

~~RESTRICTED~~

In reply refer to Initials  
and No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD Dir. 5200.9 Sept. 27, 1958  
NWR by *E. H. H. H.* Date *4-17-1962*

From: Chief of Naval Operations, WASHINGTON  
To : Commandant, Third Naval District,  
Chief of the Bureau of Ships.  
Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.  
Chief of the Bureau of Personnel.  
Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.  
Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts.

2201292

Subj: USS BASS (SS164) - Disposal of.

Ref : (a) CNO restr. ser. 36323 to SecNav dated 1 Feb. 1945.  
(b) SecNav restr. ser. 36723 to CNO dated 5 Feb. 1945.  
(c) BuShips and BuOrd Joint ltr. BuShips No. C-SS/L11-3  
(815) over EN28/A2-11, BuOrd No. SS(MMLA) dated  
8 January 1945.

1. The subject vessel is unfit for further Naval service and will be disposed of for experimental use as a target in accordance with the provisions of law.
2. By reference (a) the Chief of Naval Operations certified that the subject vessel is not essential to the defense of the United States and by reference (b) the Secretary of the Navy authorized the Chief of Naval Operations to dispose of the vessel.
3. The Bureaus concerned will remove all military equipment and all other equipment and material which may be of use to other naval vessels, in accordance with reference (c), notifying the Chief of Naval Operations when such removal has been completed.
4. The Commandant, Third Naval District will notify the Chief of Naval Operations when the BASS (SS164) is ready to be stricken from the Navy Register and when in condition to be used for the contemplated experimental purpose.

cc:

Cominch  
JAG  
Insurv  
Comdt., NYd, NY  
Op-23C

55 164  
~~Flot. Submarine, 1st class~~ ~~SF 5~~  
(Type and official number)

SHIP'S INFORMATION  
STATISTICS DIVISION

SHEET No. 1

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR

NAME <sup>EX</sup> V-2 - BASS - 10<sup>#</sup> B-2 ASSIGNED Gen Order #537 10-18-20  
(Date and reference)

ACQUIRED

Authorized by Acts of Aug 29, 1916 & July 1, 1918.

CONTRACT

As Signed to Yard March 13, 1920 Price

Contractor Gort

Contract date of completion

PARTICULARS

L. O. A. W. L. B. P. Breadth L. W. L.

Draft, mean; aft Speed, maximum

Displacement, load; normal 20657

Tonnage for Suez Canal Tons per inch immersion

Funnels Masts Propellers

Fuel capacity, coal; oil

BUILDING

Yard Navy Yard Portsmouth

Keel laid OCT. 20, 1921 <sup>PORTSMOUTH YD. TELEGRAPH 12/20/21</sup> <sup>C&R No. 187-55/0972/18</sup> Launched DEC. 27, 1924 <sup>C&R No. 187-55/0972/18</sup> <sup>Serial No. 98504-10/2/21</sup>

TRIALS

Character Course

Date Draft Speed

ACCEPTANCE

Preliminary Final

COMMISSIONING

Sept. 26, 1925. 12:00 M. - C&R No. SF 446/A4 Ser. 49480 9/28/25

NAME CHANGED TO BASS - 10<sup>#</sup> 2 FEB 19, 1931 # 55/528-2

ASSIGNMENTS

Designation changed to Submarine SS 164... July 1/31  
(Sec. of Navy let. June 19/31, C&R No. A9-11-(3) and Alnav  
of June 30/31, C&R No. A6-1-(5).

Placed out com. 9 June 1937 at Phila yard. See file  
# 78/93-142

(OVER)

NOTE.—IN ENTERING INFORMATION ON THIS CARD, OFFICIAL SOURCE WITH FILE NUMBERS AND DATES MUST BE GIVEN, AND FILE NUMBERS ENTERED IN RED INK.

SHIP'S NAME

BASS (SG-5) (V-2)  
(SS-164)

PERIOD OF SERVICE

BILLET

Commander, Submarine Division 20  
(later 12). Alternated with ARGONNE  
and HOLLAND as Division Flagship

Sep 5, 1940 - Recommissioned - (Op-38) -

~~TOP SECRET~~

Reg. No. *Em A9237-927*  
R.S. No. \_\_\_\_\_

*3-1710*

SINKING OF SS 164 HULK  
(Decommissioned USS BASS)  
18 MARCH 1945  
Enclosure (2) to ComasDeviant  
~~TOP SECRET~~ Serial 0020 dated  
24 March 1945

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE COMPLETE STORY OF PICTURE

Include following where applicable:

Names, with initials or first names, rank and  
hometown; DETAILS of occasion or action;  
ALTITUDE flown and FOCAL LENGTH of lens  
(in all aerial photos).

OFFICIAL U. S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPH.

# HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

UNITED STATES FLEET

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

From ComAirForLantFlt. (1stEnd)

Serial 00343

File No. FF13-2/F41/

Date

SUBJECT:

4-18-45

Sinking of SS 164 Hulk (Decommissioned  
USS BASS.

(Re: Wk. 24)

Date rec'd 4-19-45		Logged by eh		R.S. No. 4-1068	
Action	Info	Initial	Date	Remarks	
F-0				No. Copies _____	
F-00					
F-01				1stEnd to ComASDevLant	
F-02				TS ASDD/F41 ser.0020	
F-05				3/24/45)	
F-07					
F-015					
F-0015					
F-0115					
F-1					
F-105					
F-2					
F-205					
F-3					
F-305					
F-34					
F-4					
F-405				Referred to _____	
FX-01				By _____ for	
FX-05				Action _____	
IG-00				Information _____	
IG-05				Comment _____	
				Retain _____	
				Return _____	
				See attached	
				memorandum _____	
				(Sig.) _____	
				Rec'd _____	

Tickler file until \_\_\_\_\_

Return to \_\_\_\_\_ before filing

File

Cominch file

576-766

DECLASSIFIED

4-1068

4-1068  
4-1068

File No: FF13-2/F41/ UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

90-sn

Serial: 00343

AIR FORCE

(ADMINISTRATIVE)  
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION  
NORFOLK 11, VIRGINIA

18 APR 1945

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~DECLASSIFIED~~

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to:  
ComASDevLant TopSec Ltr.,  
ASDD/F41, serial 0020,  
dated 24 March 1945.

From: Commander Air Force, Atlantic Fleet.  
To: Commander TENTH Fleet.

Subject: Sinking of SS 164 Hulk (Decommissioned USS BASS).

1. Forwarded, without enclosures which were sent direct by  
Commander Anti-Submarine Development Detachment, Atlantic Fleet.

  
P. N. L. BELLINGER

4 1068



ANTI-SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT DETACHMENT  
AIR FORCE, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

ASDD/F41

Serial: 0020

Fleet Air Detachment,  
NAS, Quonset Point, R.I.,

24 MAR 1945

~~TOP SECRET~~

From: Commander Anti-Submarine Development Detachment,  
Atlantic Fleet.  
To : Commander TENTH Fleet.  
Via : Commander Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.  
Subject: Sinking of SS 164 Hulk (Decommissioned U.S.S. BASS).  
Reference: (a) CNO Secret Dispatch 091406 of March.  
(b) CinCLant Secret Dispatch 092248 of March.  
(c) CNO Secret Dispatch 121525 of March.  
Enclosure: (A) (Under Separate Cover) One print of 35 Millimeter  
Motion Picture Film of Sinking of SS 164 Hulk.  
(B) (Under Separate Cover) Ten prints of Photographs  
of Sinking of SS 164 Hulk.  
(C) (Under Separate Cover) Three Spools of Wire Re-  
cordings, taken during the subject exercise.

1. In accordance with reference (a), (b) and (c), the hulk of the SS 164 (decommissioned U.S.S. Bass) was sunk by an aircraft of the Anti-Submarine Development Detachment, Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, on 18 March 1945, at 1247 Queen, at Latitude 41° 01' North, Longitude 71° 32' West, eight miles from Southeast Point Lighthouse on Block Island, bearing 178.5 degrees true, in 150 feet of water.

2. The purpose of the operation was to evaluate aircraft anti-submarine weapons, in conjunction with the sinking of the hulk for a sonar target. Two Mk 24 mines were used in this sinking.

3. The Bass was 341.5 feet long with a maximum beam of 27.7 feet. There were nine water tight compartments. The pressure hull at sinking, was estimated to average 13/16 inches of boiler plate steel. The outer saddle tanks were estimated to be 1/4 to 5/8 inches thick. All hatches and doors were closed. The hulk was anchored in normal diving trim, with a draft of 17 feet. There was no oil aboard.

4. Two NAE type noisemakers were installed in the hulk. One was on the starboard side, in the after battery room, and the other was attached

4 1068



ANTI-SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT DETACHMENT  
AIR FORCE, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

ASDD/F41

24 MAR 1945

Serial: 0020

~~TOP SECRET~~  
DECLASSIFIED

Subject: Sinking of SS 164 Hulk (Decommissioned U.S.S. BASS).  
-----

externally on the port side, approximately 30 feet forward of the conning tower.

5. Two radio sono buoys (AN/CRT-1A), yellow and orange, were dropped near the hulk prior to dropping the mines. These buoys were monitored in three aircraft, and wire recordings were made of all sounds heard. Both buoys operated satisfactorily.

6. Weather conditions were excellent. The ceiling was unlimited, visibility 20 miles, surface wind 5 to 6 knots from the northwest, and the sea calm.

7. Two Mark 24 mines were dropped from a PBV-5A as follows:

- (a) 1230 Queen - Mark 24 mine, equipped for 120-foot cruising depth and with 30-foot ceiling, released from altitude of 200 feet at a ground speed of 115 knots. Impact on the water was about 150 feet off the starboard beam of the hulk, slightly aft of amidships.
- (b) 1243 Queen - Mark 24 mine, equipped for 45 foot cruising depth and with 15-foot ceiling, released from an altitude of 150 feet at a ground speed of 115 knots. Impact on the water was about 100 feet to starboard of the after part of the hulk, on a line about midway between the conning tower and the stern.

8. No results were apparent from the first mine, prior to the second drop. In view of its deeper cruising depth and its ceiling below the keel line of the hulk, it is believed that it went to the bottom.

9. There was a detonation against the hulk 44 seconds after the second mine was dropped. The explosion was forward of the conning tower, and a plume appeared on both sides of the hulk. The main force appeared to be on the starboard side. Almost immediately after this explosion, there was a second explosion at the stern, and a large "boil" appeared on the sur-

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ANTI-SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT DETACHMENT  
AIR FORCE, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

ASDD/P41

Serial: 0020

24 MAR 1945

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~TOP SECRET~~

Subject: Sinking of SS 164 Hulk (Decommissioned U.S.S. BASS).  
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face to starboard. It is believed that this second explosion was caused by the countermining of the first mine by the detonation of the second.

10. Within twenty seconds after the explosions, the hulk was settling by the bow, and in less than one minute, the forward deck and the conning tower were beneath the water. It continued to sink by the bow until the bow rested on the bottom. Then the stern slowly settled. The hulk disappeared three minutes and forty seconds after the first detonation.

11. No debris marked the spot of the sinking. A few air bubbles and residue from the torpex explosions were the only surface evidence five minutes after the second drop.

12. One of the sonic buoys did not transmit the sound of the two explosions. This silence, on the part of the buoy, is believed to be due to its proximity to the explosion. Apparently, the buoy was so overloaded by the explosions that it temporarily failed to transmit.

13. The rapid sinking of the hulk of the Bass indicates that the lethal characteristics of the Mark 24 mine are adequate.

  
E.O. WAGNER,  
By direction.

Copy to:

CinCLant (Less encl. (C)).  
ComSubLant (Less encl. (C)).

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1907 EASTMAN KODAK SAFETY

1907 EASTMAN KODAK SAFETY

~~TOP SECRET~~  
SINKING USS BASS  
DATE 18 MARCH 1945  
SQUADRON PBY 29  
PILOT COMDR, FISS  
PHOTOG. CLINE ROLL 454





FASTMAN REGULAR

FASTMAN REGULAR SAFETY

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~  
SINKING USS BASS

DATE 18 MARCH 1945

SQUADRON PBY 29

PILOT COMDR FISS

PHOTO G. CLINE ROLL 454




TOP SECRET EASTMAN REGULATED SAFETY

~~TOP SECRET~~  
SECRET  
DATE 18 MARCH 1946  
SQUADRON PBY 25  
PILOT COMDR F159  
PHOTOG CLINE 1016 455







~~TOP SECRET~~  
SINKING USS BASS  
DATE 18 MARCH 1945  
SQUADRON PBY 29  
PILOT COMDR FISS  
PHOTOG. CLINE ROLL 454



1054 EASTMAN REGULAR SAFETY

~~TOP SECRET~~

SINKING USS BASS  
DATE 18 MARCH 1945

SQUADRON PBY 29

PILOT COMDR FISS

PHOTOG. CLINE ROLL 454





TOP SECRET

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SINKING USS BASS

DATE 18 MARCH 1945

SQUADRON PBY 29

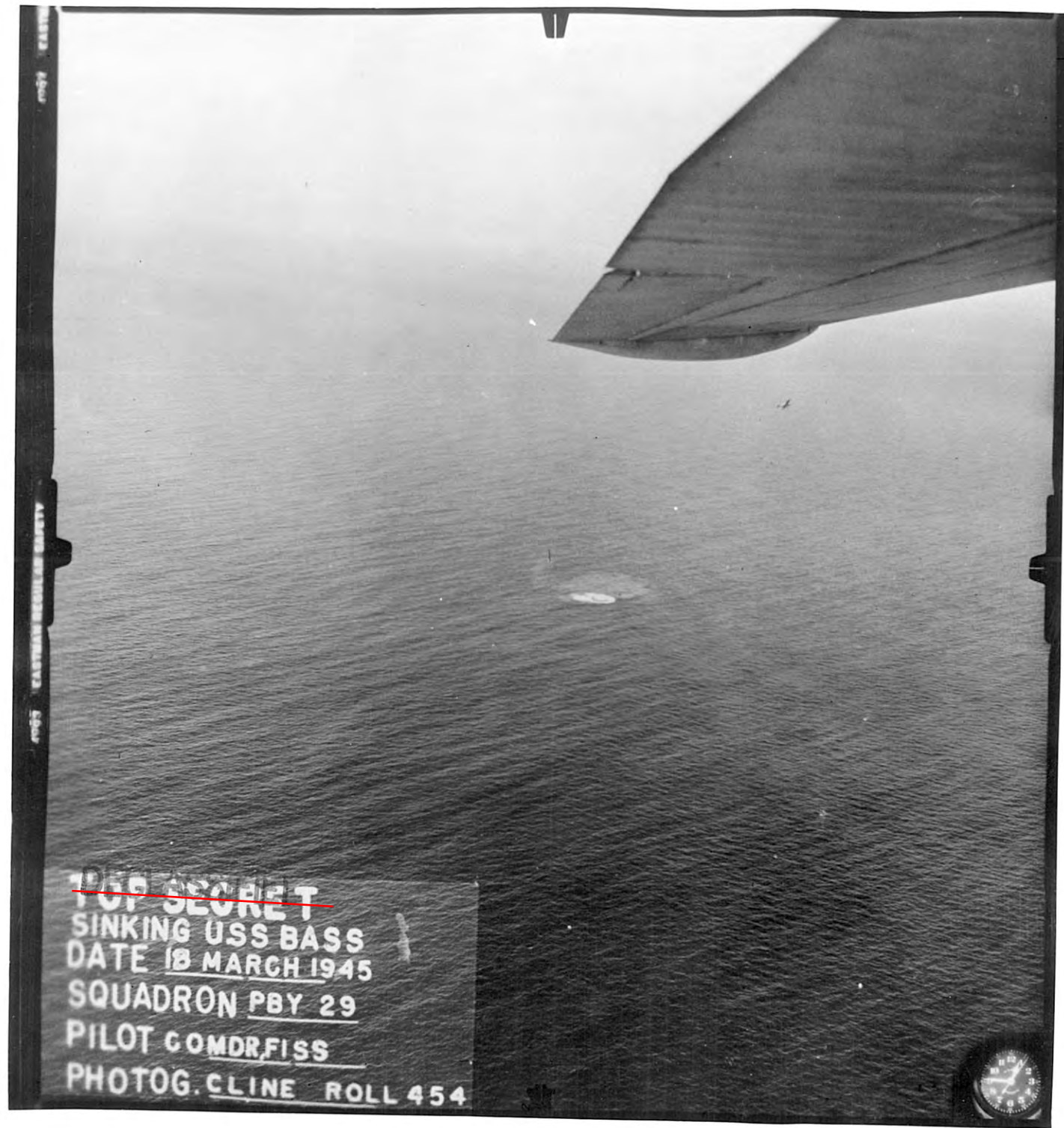
PILOT COMDR. FISS

PHOTOG. CLINE ROLL 454









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SINKING USS BASS  
DATE 18 MARCH 1945

SQUADRON PBY 29

PILOT COMDR. FISS

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TOP SECRET EASTMAN REGULAR SAFETY

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